

S-E-C-R-E-T

26 February 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR: Staff Personnel

SUBJECT : Letter of Information

GENERAL

1. Saigon Situation: The relatively quiet security situation at the Saigon Bureau, which had lasted for nearly three months, was abruptly shattered by the severe Viet Cong attack on the city during the Tet holidays. FBIS personnel living in an apartment near the Chancery witnessed much of the action around the American Embassy compound, which was hit during the early morning hours of 31 January. The overall attack on Saigon completely disrupted Saigon traffic and resulted in security restrictions which kept Vietnamese personnel from entering U. S. installations. The Okinawa Bureau was alerted from Saigon by telephone to coordinate with the Bangkok Bureau in sharing Saigon's coverage responsibilities. Later in the day of 31 January the Bureau was granted permission by security authorities to escort a few monitors into the building and limited operations were resumed. However, for a two-week period coverage responsibilities continued to be shared, with Okinawa handling the Viet Cong's Liberation Radio and Saigon covering Radio Hanoi.

Although a lengthy curfew was imposed on both U.S. and Vietnamese civilians, the most serious problem confronting local personnel in getting to work was the series of roadblocks which had been erected. During this period all American personnel were urged to obtain an armed escort for traveling. Arrangements were made for employees working after the curfew to stay overnight at the Bureau.

There were no injuries to FBIS employees, and by 14 February the situation had stabilized sufficiently to allow the Bureau to revert to its pre-crisis coverage schedule. Although curfew restrictions were reduced somewhat, many monitors could still work only half a day. The night editor, teletypists, and some monitors continued to spend the night on bureau premises. One monitor reported a brother killed by sniper fire and another stated that he had to move twice to avoid hostilities in the Cholon area. Two monitors are expected to be affected by a call-up of reservists.

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Group 1

Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification

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2. Cyprus Situation: The withdrawal of 8,000 Greek Army "illegals" from Cyprus, under terms of the Ankara-Athens agreement ending the November/December crisis, was completed during January. In Kyrenia, intensive police investigations and Civil Defense patrols in connection with the series of bombings in the town culminated in the discovery of a cache of explosives and the arrest of four Greek Cypriots charged with carrying out the bombings. [REDACTED]

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SERVICES AND REQUIREMENTS

3. Special Services: In response to a request from the Director of USIA, the Austrian Bureau provided priority processing of two articles from the Soviet press. At the request of the Korean Task Force, linguists in the Asia Division translated several articles from Korean publications dating back to 1963 on fishing boat locations, sealanes, and port facilities in the Sea of Japan. The USSR Division is assisting an Organization component in preparing a study of Russian, Ukrainian, and Belorussian personal names. The East Coast Bureau prepared magnetic tape recordings of the voices of several world leaders to be used by an Organization component in a voice analysis study. [REDACTED]

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The Saigon Bureau responded to an urgent request from the American Embassy, Saigon, in processing an 18,000-word speech of President Thieu for high level consumers in both Saigon and Washington. At the request of MACV's Psychological Operations Directorate, the bureau summarized initial broadcasts of a new South Vietnamese transmitter in Pleiku. [REDACTED]

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4. Use of FBIS Material: U.S. Missions made extensive use of material monitored by the Okinawa and Bangkok Bureaus while providing back-up support for the Saigon Bureau during initial stages of the Tet offensive. For example, the American Embassy Saigon cited in cable traffic Bangkok-monitored Liberation Radio material which reported a series of Viet Cong "victories" throughout South Vietnam on 31 January, including the "killing of 200 Americans" in the attack on the Embassy compound. [REDACTED]

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A Radio Moscow broadcast in Quechua to Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia, monitored by the Panama Bureau, dealing with an Indian incident in Bolivia was sent by the State Department to Latin American embassies as being "particularly timely for local exploitation in view of the fact that Colombia has just reestablished relations with the Soviet Union and Moscow is seeking to resume relations with Venezuela." [REDACTED]

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The Weekly Activities Report of the Joint U.S. Public Affairs Office in Saigon for 18-24 February reported that "daily analysis is now made of data received via FBIS monitoring of Radio Hanoi and Radio Liberation broadcasts, with reports forwarded to the Director (of JUSPAO) and distributed to interested agencies." [redacted]

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5. Propaganda Analysis: In a succession of special services beginning over the weekend following the seizure of the Pueblo, PAD assembled more than 100 pages of North Korean statements charging U.S.-ROK naval "intrusions" since November 1966, for the State Department's Korean Task Force in support of a White House requirement; spot-checked Daily Reports back to the beginning of 1964 for similar Pyongyang charges, for the Korean Task Force and an Organization component; and responded to an Office of Naval Intelligence request for an analysis of Pyongyang's open threats in connection with alleged naval intrusions over the past two years. [redacted]

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PAD concurrently serviced a large number of spot requests from Organization components, the State Department, and other major consumers for information on current and past North Korean propaganda charges, and on Soviet and Chinese Communist reactions. These included a search of 1965 and 1966 propaganda for references to alleged U.S. infiltration of espionage agents into Korea by sea, searches of recent propaganda for specific references to incidents dating back to the 1950's, and information on the Sino-Korean and Soviet-Korean mutual-assistance treaties. [redacted]

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6. Other Korean Coverage: The Wire Service was considerably ahead of press agency reporting in carrying on 23 January a Pyongyang domestic broadcast monitored by Okinawa Bureau which reported that Pueblo crew members had been wounded when the ship was seized. A Seoul domestic service report on a North Korean attack on U.S. positions also was carried well ahead of other open reporting. Daily situation reports prepared by State's Korean Task Force quoted liberally from FBIS material. [redacted]

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The FBIS Wire Service carried all worldwide filed reaction to the Pueblo crisis in support of a daily reaction roundup prepared by USIA. This was in response to a high-level request. [redacted]

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7. Press and Document Exploitation: During January Asia Division received 178 Red Guard newspapers acquired by the American Consulate General, Hong Kong, and 125 issues of the Yunnan Daily, Liberation Army Daily, and similar publications from the American Consulate, Mandalay. South and East Asia Branch/Asia Division translated a number of Indonesian documents totaling 234 English pages, including portions of an Indonesian submarine manual. [redacted]

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The West Europe/Africa Branch of EAD furnished several Organization components with significant information from the French press concerning preparations for proposed French-Soviet space experiments as well as data on French heavy water production. [redacted]

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During January the London PMU began covering the five Albanian newspapers assigned to the unit. To help avoid duplication between items filed from the London and Austrian Bureaus and the Soviet and Albanian articles selected by the PMU, a copy of higher-level USSR and East European material already filed is mailed daily from the London Bureau, Caversham, to the PMU at Wembley Park. [redacted]

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Because Soviet scientific abstract journals no longer contain a significant amount of material from Chinese Communist scientific and technical publications, the USSR Division has terminated a project of translating abstracts made by the Soviets from ChiCom journals. [redacted]

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8. Regular Lateral Services: The NASA Ames Research Center at Moffett Field, California, has requested lateral dissemination of material on space launchings and related developments. In another new regular service, the London Bureau has begun filing items dealing with Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and Burma, to the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok at its request. [redacted]

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PUBLICATIONS

9. Reports Consolidation: Effective 15 February four separate serial reports of the contractual facility were consolidated into one report entitled, Translations on Communist China. This new publication combines three former Translation on Communist China sub-series -- "Political and Sociological"; "Economic"; and "Science and Technology" with Translations from Hung-Ch'i. Material from the latter will continue to be published as a separate volume, but will be identified by a sub-title to the main report. Two additional contract publications, Translations from HOC TAP and Translations on North Vietnam, are being amalgamated using the title of the latter report. The FBIS report Press Information on Iran has been discontinued; appropriate material on Iran will be incorporated into the contractually-published Translations on the Near East series. [redacted]

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10. Supplements: Two Supplements to the Eastern Europe Daily Report were published during February: "Report by Politburo Member Kurt Hager to the Fourth Plenum of the SED Central Committee," dated 7 February 1968, 38 pages (prepared by the German Bureau); "Reports on the Fulfillment of the 1967 Economic Plans of Rumania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia," dated 15 February 1968, 48 pages (prepared by the Austrian Bureau). [redacted]

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FIELD OPERATIONS

11. Panama Communications: On 16 February a new allocated circuit between Headquarters and the Panama Bureau was activated. The new circuit has helped overcome previous problems which resulted in loss of traffic and inordinate delays in transmission. [redacted]

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12. Caribbean Bureau Coverage: The phased transfer of East Coast Bureau coverage to the Caribbean Bureau has continued on schedule. Paris correspondents' dispatches, the Rabat Mutual African Press, and partial coverage of Lima AFP were assumed in Puerto Rico on 31 January and on 16 February all Paris AFP coverage was transferred to the Caribbean Bureau. [redacted]

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13. Okinawa AUTODIN: A Department of the Army representative in Washington has proposed that the Okinawa Bureau be connected to the Okinawa AUTODIN (Automatic Digital Network) switch within the next few months. This will eliminate the manual relay of the bureau's Common User traffic now being performed by the Okinawa Communications Center. [redacted]

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14. Broadcast Developments: The Bulgarian radio inaugurated "Radio Rodina" (Homeland) on 22 January, addressed specifically to compatriots abroad. It replaces the former regular international service programs in Bulgarian. BBC is covering this new service. [redacted]

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Viet Cong Liberation Radio broadcasts were nearly doubled and Radio Hanoi added new programs for South Vietnam in connection with the communist Tet offensive. Both radios are also transmitting additional programs in English for U.S. servicemen. The broadcasts are covered in Saigon and Okinawa. [redacted]

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ENGINEERING

15. Hokkaido Bureau: Plans for the interim operations building at the Hokkaido Bureau have been completed by the ASA Field Station, Post Engineer Section, which will also perform the construction.

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16. Antenna Tests: A Naval Research Laboratory team completed testing of the Wire Grid Lens Antenna at the Caribbean Bureau 31 January. During the tests some 1800 graphs were made and a preliminary report is expected in about four months. Operational tests on the antenna indicate that it is performing well.

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17. Okinawa Construction: Four new houses at the Okinawa Bureau were 56% completed as of 31 January. Exterior water lines and underground street light cables have been installed.

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MISCELLANEOUS

18. Cyprus Negotiations: The U. S. Government, in an exchange of letters with the Government of Cyprus on 22 January 1968, reached agreement on the presence of FBIS and other "communications premises and installations."

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19. Travel Restrictions: As part of the President's program to alleviate the balance of payments deficit, higher authority has adopted guidelines for limiting overseas travel by Staff employees. Every aspect of an overseas TDY trip must be related to a requirement for fulfillment of the traveler's assigned responsibilities and functions. No overseas TDY stop will be authorized which fails to meet this criterion, even though directly on the traveler's route. Annual leave abroad will not be authorized in conjunction with a TDY trip. Further, PCS travel via an indirect route for the purpose of annual leave abroad will require approval at a level higher than the Director, FBIS. There will have to be strong justification for indirect travel such as job-related area familiarization or orientation. When such indirect travel is proposed, the itinerary will be submitted to the Director, FBIS with the bureau chief's recommendations and comments for forwarding to higher authority.

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20. Personal Mail: Field bureaus are cautioned against the use of official pouches for unofficial personal mail or articles. The caveat "EYES ONLY" should be used only for sensitive official matters and should be kept to a minimum. [redacted]

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21. Personal Effects: All returning personnel should be advised that air freight, unaccompanied baggage, and household effects allowances are only for the shipment of the traveler's own personal effects. [redacted]

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22. Briefings and Visits: A group of senior FBIS employees was briefed by an OSI officer on the current status of the Soviet broadcast satellite system. A senior staff officer of CRS briefed about 25 Headquarters personnel on the current mission and capabilities of his office. [redacted]

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The Chief, Field Operations Staff, visited the Key West, Panama, and Caribbean Bureaus 21 January to 6 February. [redacted]

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[redacted] visited the German Bureau. Mr. Kenneth B. Forrest, State Department Regional Communications Officer, visited the Saigon and Bangkok Bureaus. U. S. Ambassador Belcher, the Government of Cyprus Minister of Communications and Works Titos Phanos, and other Cypriot officials visited the Mediterranean Bureau on 25 January to discuss the routing of the new Karavas-Lapithos bypass road. London Bureau Chief [redacted] and Mediterranean Bureau Chief [redacted] attended the 26th FBIS-BBC Coverage Coordination Meeting at Caversham 3-5 January. [redacted]

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23. Suggestion Awards: An FBIS Suggestion Awards Panel has been designated to evaluate suggestions concerning FBIS which have been submitted under the Suggestion Awards Program, and for stimulating and recognizing ideas that might improve the efficiency of FBIS or that have wider application. Supervisors at all levels should actively encourage the submission of suggestions from employees. [redacted]

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ADMINISTRATION

24. Staff Dependents Born Overseas: Employees are reminded, when returning to the United States from an overseas assignment, to apply for a Certificate of Citizenship for children born during the assignment. Forms should be requested from the Administrative Staff, Headquarters. [redacted]

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25. Training: During the reporting period the following personnel attended training courses: [redacted]

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- a. [redacted] Chief, Propaganda Analysis Division,
and [redacted] Deputy Chief of Operations -
Executive Orientation in PPB, 22-24 January 1968

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- b. [redacted] Area Officer, USSR Division,
and [redacted] Area Officer, Asia Division -
Management, 12-16 February 1968

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26. Pen and Ink Changes, [redacted] Please change Saigon
Bureau's local street address to 39 Ham Nghi [redacted]

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27. Regulatory Issuances. The following regulatory issuances were disseminated: [redacted]

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28. Twenty-year Anniversaries: Bureaus are reminded that impending 20-year employment anniversaries of foreign nationals should be reported to Headquarters. [redacted]

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PERSONNEL29. New EmployeesAssignment

Analyst, Propaganda Analysis Division

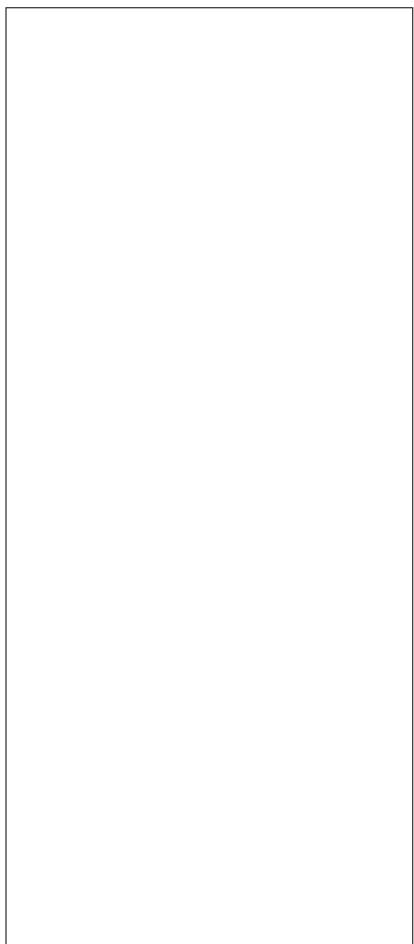
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Typist, Publications Division

Typist, Publications Division

Area Officer, Europe/Africa/
Latin America Division

Secretary, Executive Staff

30. ReassignmentsFromToEditor
East Coast BureauEditor
Publications Div.

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Deputy Chief
USSR DivisionDeputy Chief
Executive StaffEditor
Wire Services StaffEditor
Caribbean BureauChief, Political/
Military Branch
USSR DivisionAssistant Liaison
and Requirements
OfficerSenior Editor
German BureauSenior Editor
Wire Services StaffMonitor
East Coast BureauMonitor
Caribbean BureauEditor
London BureauEditor
Publications Div.Radio Operator
East Coast BureauRadio Operator
Caribbean BureauMonitor
East Coast BureauMonitor
Caribbean Bureau

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Reassignments



From

TO

Editor
East Coast Bureau

Editor
Publications Div.

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Editor
Mediterranean Bur.

Editor
Wire Services Staff

31. Resignations



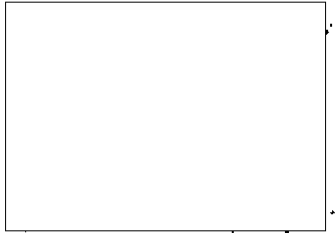
From

Monitor, East Coast Bureau

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Area Officer, Europe/Africa/
Latin America Division

32. Retirements



From

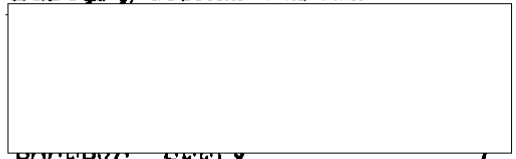
Area Officer, Asia Division

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Area Officer (Rotation)

Editor, German Bureau

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ROGER V. G. SEELY

Director

Foreign Broadcast Information Service

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